Foreign Language Aptitude

The Psychological Services Staff has completed the first phase of a reserach project intended to uncover more reliable predictive measurements as to how successful a given individual is likely to be in the study of foreign languages. Thus far, it is pretty evident that the ~~Artifixal~~ Artificial Language Aptitude Test (ALAT), administered to applicants as part of field testing, is not reliable and probably should be dropped. Distinct questions also have arisen about the reliability

(MLAT)

of the more complex Modern Language Aptitude Test/although no definitive conclusions are yet possible. ¶ Preliminary results of this research have also revealed that at some point well into language training, a

more

minority of students ~~makes~~ rapid progress to a higher level of proficiency with relatively few more hours of instruction while the "average" student makes ~~littexxxxxy~~ little additional progress regardless of the number of added hours of formal instruction. PSS is in the process of attempting to determine the factors which differentiate one groyp from the other, so that some reliable predictions about learning performance may be made.